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10/645,058	08/21/2003	Hideyuki Katayama	P/29-1640	6552

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EXAMINER	
BETZ, BLAKE E	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2672	

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/645,058	KATAYAMA, HIDEYUKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Blake E. Betz	2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *3/10/05*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *2-9,11 and 13-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *2-9,11 and 13-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *21 August 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *1*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 – 9, 13 – 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. 1,158,435 to Itani et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,706,078 to Kimura and U.S. PGPUB No. 2001/0034225 to Gupte et al.

The invention of Itani et al. discloses an electronic mail sending apparatus that allows a user to preview email according to the display parameters of a receiving apparatus. Figure 1 shows the components of the sending apparatus, including a keyboard, element 12, for inputting characters, a display, element 13, and a communications interface, element 15, to connect the computer unit to a communication network. Paragraph 24 further describes Figure 1 as containing a controller, element 11, that implements various functions and an email system program. Paragraph 31 teaches that the sender of an email may select a terminal model from a menu with which to display the email text on the display screen. "The sender starts the e-mail program to compose and edit a receiver's address, subject and text of the e-mail (S30). If the sender selects a terminal model from the menu 20 (YES in S31), the controller 11 displays the e-mail text on the screen in a size corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model (S32)." Thus, Itani et al. discloses a preview control means for

previewing an email text character string. Additionally, paragraph 33 denotes that the user may also change the display by selecting a different model from the menu of terminal models. Therefore, the display format for the receiving terminal and the preview function are independent of the display format of the sending terminal equipment. Itani et al., however, does not disclose the computer unit of the invention as including a wireless transmitting and receiving unit for the communications interface to a communication network. Additionally, the system of Itani et al. is composed of components that are not housed in a compact unit for convenient portable use. The system of Gupte et al. teaches of a method and system for providing email to a wireless communication device. Paragraph 4 of Gupte et al. states, "The wireless communication devices, such as cell phones, allow a person to access voicemail systems and can also provide access to the Internet. The wireless communication devices can also allow the user to send or receive emails in text format. Laptops, notebook computers, as well as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) also allow a person to access the Internet, send text emails or receive text emails. Accordingly, business travelers can stay in touch with their offices and homes via email and voicemail through cell phones, computers, PDAs, and other wireless communication devices." Thus, Gupte et al. discloses that laptops and notebook computers allow a person to wirelessly access the Internet and send/receive text emails. Additionally, it is well known in the art that a laptop computer includes a display means and a keyboard for inputting characters. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Itani et al. so that the computer unit of

Figure 1 was housed in a compact unit and included a wireless communications interface as described in the laptop computer setup of Gupte et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification to the system of Itani et al. so that a person can still be able to stay in touch with their office and/or home via email while they are away as taught by Gupte. Itani et al. further does not disclose the preview means being operative to preview the character string of an email by replacing each character in the character string with one or a plurality of dots. Kimura teaches of a process for displaying the layout of text in a text preparing apparatus in which characters are converted into plural display elements in compressed form to save space on a display during layout. Column 3, lines 12 – 19 of Kimura, states, "As will be apparent from the foregoing description, the present invention provides for the display on a display device of limited space of the layout of text prepared by an electronic apparatus having a text preparing function and indicates the arrangements of the characters etc. in the text by means of different display elements corresponding to the different species of the characters, numerals, symbols etc. constituting the text." Thus, Kimura teaches of previewing characters in a character string by replacing each character with a plurality of dots as shown in Figures 3 and 4. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the invention of Itani et al. to include a preview means operative to preview a character string by replacing each character in the string with a plurality of dots as in Kimura. It is well known to one skilled in that art that the display screens on portable equipment are often smaller and have lower resolution than that of a display for a desktop computer. Therefore, one

would have been motivated to make such a modification to Itani et al. so that the previewed emails may be displayed in a space saving manner on a portable laptop computer screen.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 19, teach of claim 2. Paragraph 31 of Itani et al., states, "If the sender selects a terminal model from the menu 20 (YES in S31), the controller 11 displays the e-mail text on the screen in a size corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model (S32)." Paragraph 40 further states, "By viewing the text area 23 of Fig. 7, the sender knows how the e-mail text will be displayed on the receiver's terminal." Figure 3 shows a number of predetermined formats with which the email text character string may be previewed. Therefore, Itani discloses a preview control means for previewing a character string in a predetermined format.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 2, teach of claim 3. As described above, Itani teaches of displaying email text in a viewing area in a format according to that of a selected receiving terminal model. Paragraph 39 states, "The text area 23 is displayed in a form corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model." Therefore, Itani discloses previewing email in the format of the terminal equipment to which the email is sent. Additionally, as shown by the different display formats offered in menu 20 of Figure 2 and the various display formats available in Figure 3 for defining the receiving terminal equipment, it is inherent in the invention of Itani that the receiving terminal equipment to which the email is being sent has a display format that is independent of the display format of the terminal equipment sending the email. As

taught by Figure 3, the type and model of the terminal equipment receiving the email dictates the display format of the receiving terminal equipment.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 19, teach of claim 4, except wherein the plurality of dots used to replace each character in a character string are formed in a cluster. Figure 3 of Kimura teaches of using a plurality of dots, formed in a cluster to replace characters in a preview format. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the invention of Itani to include forming the character representative dots in a cluster according to the type of character they replace as in Kimura. One would have been motivated to make such a modification to the invention of Itani so that a user may be better able to determine the layout of a previewed message according to alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic characters, even after they are replaced by dot representations for space saving reasons.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 19, teach of claims 5, 6, and 7. Itani teaches of an input means for setting a predetermined number of characters per line of a preview display. Paragraphs 34, 35, and 36 describe receiving user input for determining a model name from a menu of terminal devices. By selecting among the various models, the user determines the number of characters per line of a preview display in addition to the number of lines per screen of the selected terminal model. Paragraph 37 states, "The controller 11 sequentially counts the number of character string codes of the e-mail text stored in the storage device 14 from the top of the e-mail text. Every time the number of character-string codes reaches the number of characters

per line, the controller 11 adds a line feed code at that position (S42). Note that every time a line feed code is read from the e-mail text, the number of character-string codes is reset to zero." Paragraph 38 states, "The character string having a line feed code(s) added thereto is drawn in the text area 23 by the number of lines per screen (S43), and a display frame of the text area 23 is drawn (S44)." Paragraph 39 additionally states, "The text area 23 is displayed in a form corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model." Thus, Itani teaches of previewing a character string according to a set number of characters per line. Additionally, as Paragraph 37 states and Figures 2, 7, and 8 show, a carriage return is performed on the character string by adding a new feed code after the number of character per line of the receiving terminal model has been exceeded while displaying the corresponding display in area 23.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 19, teach of claims 8 and 9. As shown in Figure 2, area 23 displays the email message in the original character form before previewing the message in a format according to a selected receiving terminal device. The original message composed in area 23 includes both the left and right end of the displayed message, allowing a user to review their created message before sending it to a recipient.

Itani et al. discloses the method of claim 21. Figure 1 shows the components of an electronic mail sending apparatus, including a keyboard, element 12, for inputting characters, a display, element 13, and a communications interface, element 15, to connect the computer unit to a communication network. Paragraph 24 further describes Figure 1 as containing a controller, element 11, that implements various functions and

an email system program. Paragraph 31 teaches that the sender of an email may select a terminal model from a menu with which to display the email text on the display screen. "The sender starts the e-mail program to compose and edit a receiver's address, subject and text of the e-mail (S30). If the sender selects a terminal model from the menu 20 (YES in S31), the controller 11 displays the e-mail text on the screen in a size corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model (S32)." Thus, Itani et al. discloses a preview control means for previewing an email text character string. Additionally, paragraph 33 denotes that the user may also change the display by selecting a different model from the menu of terminal models. Therefore, the display format for the receiving terminal and the preview function are independent of the display format of the sending terminal equipment. Itani et al., however, does not disclose the computer unit of the invention as including a wireless transmitting and receiving unit for the communications interface to a communication network. Additionally, the system of Itani et al. is composed of components that are not housed in a compact unit for convenient portable use. The system of Gupte et al. teaches of a method and system for providing email to a wireless communication device. Paragraph 4 of Gupte et al. states, "The wireless communication devices, such as cell phones, allow a person to access voicemail systems and can also provide access to the Internet. The wireless communication devices can also allow the user to send or receive emails in text format. Laptops, notebook computers, as well as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) also allow a person to access the Internet, send text emails or receive text emails. Accordingly, business travelers can stay in touch with their offices and homes via email and

voicemail through cell phones, computers, PDAs, and other wireless communication devices." Thus, Gupte et al. discloses that laptops and notebook computers allow a person to wirelessly access the Internet and send/receive text emails. Additionally, it is well known in the art that a laptop computer includes a display means and a keyboard for inputting characters. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Itani et al. so that the computer unit of Figure 1 was housed in a compact unit and included a wireless communications interface as described in the laptop computer setup of Gupte et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification to the system of Itani et al. so that a person can still be able to stay in touch with their office and/or home via email while they are away as taught by Gupte. Itani et al. further does not disclose the preview means being operative to preview the character string of an email by replacing each character in the character string with one or a plurality of dots. Kimura teaches of a process for displaying the layout of text in a text preparing apparatus in which characters are converted into plural display elements in compressed form to save space on a display during layout. Column 3, lines 12 – 19 of Kimura, states, "As will be apparent from the foregoing description, the present invention provides for the display on a display device of limited space of the layout of text prepared by an electronic apparatus having a text preparing function and indicates the arrangements of the characters etc. in the text by means of different display elements corresponding to the different species of the characters, numerals, symbols etc. constituting the text." Thus, Kimura teaches of previewing characters in a character string by replacing each

character with a plurality of dots as shown in Figures 3 and 4. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the invention of Itani et al. to include a preview means operative to preview a character string by replacing each character in the string with a plurality of dots as in Kimura. It is well known to one skilled in that art that the display screens on portable equipment are often smaller and have lower resolution than that of a display for a desktop computer. Therefore, one would have been motivated to make such a modification to Itani et al. so that the previewed emails may be displayed in a space saving manner on a portable laptop computer screen.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 21, teach of claim 13. As described in Figure 4 and Paragraph 31 of Itani et al., a user first composes the text of an email. Next, the user may select a receiving terminal model for previewing the email text in a format corresponding to the display format of the chosen receiving terminal. Thus, Itani teaches of a preview function for previewing a text email in the display format of a designated receiving terminal device.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 21, teach of claims 14 and 16, except wherein the plurality of dots used to replace each character in a character string are formed in a cluster in a predetermined format. Figure 3 of Kimura teaches of using a plurality of dots, formed in a cluster in a predetermined format to replace characters in a preview format. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the invention of Itani to include forming the character representative dots in a cluster according to the type of character

they replace as in Kimura. One would have been motivated to make such a modification to the invention of Itani so that a user may be better able to determine the layout of a previewed message according to alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic characters, even after they are replaced by dot representations for space saving reasons.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 14, teach of claim 15. The flow chart of Figure 4 illustrates the method of displaying a text email in the format corresponding to the display format of the receiving terminal apparatus to which the email is to be sent. Paragraphs 35 – 39 further describe the process in which a user composes an email message then selects the receiving terminal device with which the message is to be sent. Paragraph 39 states, "The text area 23 is displayed in a form corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model." Therefore, Itani et al. includes a method for previewing an email in the display format of the receiving terminal equipment to which the email is to be sent.

Itani, Gupte, and Kimura, as applied to claim 21, teach of claims 17 and 18. Itani as modified by Kimura teaches that a previewed email message may be displayed wherein each character in a character string is replaced by a plurality of dots. Itani further teaches of setting a predetermined number of characters per line of a preview display. Paragraphs 34, 35, and 36 describe receiving user input for determining a model name from a menu of terminal devices. By selecting among the various models, the user determines the number of characters per line of a preview display in addition to the number of lines per screen of the selected terminal model. Paragraph 37 states,

"The controller 11 sequentially counts the number of character string codes of the e-mail text stored in the storage device 14 from the top of the e-mail text. Every time the number of character-string codes reaches the number of characters per line, the controller 11 adds a line feed code at that position (S42). Note that every time a line feed code is read from the e-mail text, the number of character-string codes is reset to zero." Paragraph 38 states, "The character string having a line feed code(s) added thereto is drawn in the text area 23 by the number of lines per screen (S43), and a display frame of the text area 23 is drawn (S44)." Paragraph 39 additionally states, "The text area 23 is displayed in a form corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model." Thus, Itani teaches of previewing a character string according to a set number of characters per line. Additionally, as Paragraph 37 states and Figures 2, 7, and 8 show, a carriage return is performed on the character string by adding a new feed code after the number of character per line of the receiving terminal model has been exceeded while displaying the corresponding display in area 23.

Claims 20 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. 1,158,435 to Itani et al. in view of U.S. PGPUB No. 2001/0034225 to Gupte et al.

Figure 1 of Itani et al. shows the components of an electronic mail sending apparatus, including a keyboard, element 12, for inputting characters, a display, element 13, and a communications interface, element 15, to connect the computer unit to a communication network. Paragraph 24 further describes Figure 1 as containing a controller, element 11, that implements various functions and an email system program.

Paragraph 31 teaches that the sender of an email may select a terminal model from a menu with which to display the email text on the display screen. "The sender starts the e-mail program to compose and edit a receiver's address, subject and text of the e-mail (S30). If the sender selects a terminal model from the menu 20 (YES in S31), the controller 11 displays the e-mail text on the screen in a size corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model (S32)." Thus, Itani et al. discloses a display processing means for previewing the text of an email being prepared for transmission. Additionally, Paragraph 39 states, "If the series of steps S40 to S44 is conducted with the mail text as shown in Fig. 2 having been composed, the display as shown in Fig. 7 is obtained. The text area 23 is displayed in a form corresponding to the screen of the selected terminal model." Therefore, Itani et al. also discloses displaying a predetermined part of an email in a format corresponding to that of a receiving terminal's display. Itani et al., however, does not disclose the computer unit of the invention as including a wireless transmitting and receiving unit for the communications interface to a communication network. Additionally, the system of Itani et al. is composed of components that are not housed in a compact unit for convenient portable use. The system of Gupte et al. teaches of a method and system for providing email to a wireless communication device. Paragraph 4 of Gupte et al. states, "The wireless communication devices, such as cell phones, allow a person to access voicemail systems and can also provide access to the Internet. The wireless communication devices can also allow the user to send or receive emails in text format. Laptops, notebook computers, as well as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) also allow a person to access the Internet, send text

emails or receive text emails. Accordingly, business travelers can stay in touch with their offices and homes via email and voicemail through cell phones, computers, PDAs, and other wireless communication devices." Thus, Gupte et al. discloses that laptops and notebook computers allow a person to wirelessly access the Internet and send/receive text emails. Additionally, it is well known in the art that a laptop computer includes a display means and a keyboard for inputting characters. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Itani et al. so that the computer unit of Figure 1 was housed in a compact unit and included a wireless communications interface as described in the laptop computer setup of Gupte et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification to the system of Itani et al. so that a person can still be able to stay in touch with their office and/or home via email while they are away as taught by Gupte.

Itani and Gupte, as applied to claim 20 above, teach of claim 11. As shown in Figures 2, 7, and 8 of Itani et al., the previewed text of the email message to be sent includes the beginning parts of the lines in area 23.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/10/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Itani et al., the newly disclosed prior art by the applicant, overcomes the arguments of the applicant in that the invention of Itani clearly has the capabilities of sending and receiving email over a network. Furthermore, Itani discloses the ability of the invention to format and preview a message being transmitted such that it can be read conveniently on the display device of the receiving party. By incorporating the

standard computer unit of Itani with the portable laptop as taught by Gupte et al., the system components, including a wireless network interface, are thus housed in a compact unit for portable use. Lastly, Kimura teaches of replacing characters with an array of dots to facilitate previewing text layout on devices having limited display capabilities. As stated in the above rejection, the display screen for laptop computers are often smaller in size and have lower resolution capabilities than their desktop counterparts.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blake E. Betz whose telephone number is (571) 272-7655. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 4:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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BB 4/18/05

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